

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 8, 2003. Claim 24 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1-23 and 25-28 are pending herein. Because the instant amendment merely places dependent claims 11, 24 and 28 into independent form, the Examiner has agreed to enter this Amendment After Final.

Applicant notes with appreciation the courtesy extended by the Examiner to the undersigned during the multiple telephone discussions that have taken place over the past several weeks. The substance of these telephone interview discussions is set forth herein.

Claim 1

Claim 1 (previous claim 24) stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yamagishi in view of Nakahara. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires that "the transfer section includes (a) a first contact pad, provided on a first substrate which is one of the substrates and has an input terminal of the first signal wiring and an input terminal of the second signal wiring, which is connected to one of the first signal wiring and the second signal wiring provided on the first substrate, (b) a second contact pad, provided on a second substrate which is the other substrate, which is connected to the other one of the first signal wiring and the second signal wiring on the second substrate (the other substrate), and (c) the conductive particles connected to the first contact pad and the second contact pad; and wherein the transfer sections are provided alternately along both edges of a width in the sealing section, and a width of the

second signal wiring is narrower than that of the second contact pad." For example, see Fig. 2(d) of the instant application. Fig. 2(d) of the instant application illustrates a staggered transfer section arrangement so that contact pads 15 and 16 are each alternately provided along both edges of a width of the sealing section 3; where a width of the second signal wiring (15 and/or 15a) is narrower than that of the second contact pad (16 and/or 12). For example, see the instant specification at page 32, lines 1-16.

Yamagishi fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined aspect of claim 1. In particular, Yamagishi fails to disclose or suggest "transfer sections [that] are provided alternately along both edges of a width in the sealing section, and a width of the second signal wiring is narrower than that of the second contact pad" as required by claim 1 (previous claim 24). Yamagishi's terminal electrode 6 shown in Fig. 2A has no such alternating arrangement as required by claim 1. In particular, Yamagishi's terminal electrodes 6 are not provided alternately along both edges of a width of the sealing section as required by claim 1. Yamagishi is entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 1 in this regard.

Citation to Nakahara cannot cure the fundamental flaws of Yamagishi discussed above. Thus, even if the two references were combined as alleged in the Office Action (which applicant believes would be incorrect in any event), the invention of claim 1 still would not be met. Both references fail to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined aspect of claim 1.

Claim 11

Claim 11 requires that "a mean distribution volume D of the conductive particles (piece)/mm² is within a range of $1000 \geq D > 5/S$, where an area of the transfer section in a direction parallel to the substrates is S mm²." Example advantages associated with this mean distribution range D are discussed on pages 46-52 of the instant specification. These advantages discussed in the specification evidence the unexpected results associated with the invention of claim 11.

Sakamoto at col. 7, lines 29-32 fails to disclose or suggest a mean distribution volume D of the conductive particles {i.e., (piece)/mm²} within a range of $1000 \geq D \geq 5/S$, where an area of the transfer section in a direction parallel to the substrates is S mm². In particular, Sakamoto at col. 7, lines 29-32 discloses a mean distribution D of 10,000/mm² which is *outside* of the claimed range. Moreover, there is no suggestion or motivation in the art of record which would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to have combined the two references as alleged in the Office Action.

Claim 28

Claim 28 require that the transfer section has a "staggered structure." For example, Fig. 2(d) of the instant application illustrates a staggered transfer section arrangement so that at least one of contact pads 15 and 16 are alternately provided along different portions (e.g., edges) of a width of the sealing section 3. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 28, either alone or in the alleged combination.

ICHIOKA, H. et al.
Appl. No. 10/091,343
April 5, 2004

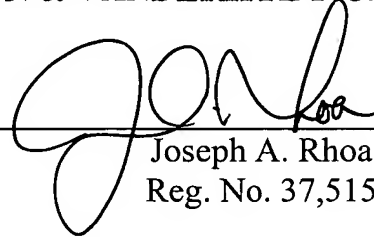
Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____


Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100